

Medical Director's Notes

It's 15 years since formation of the Fed. A lot has changed in member practices and the Fed in that time (and we've all got a bit older!). The anniversary serves as a reminder to me of the progress we have made together. Keeping 'primary care services at scale' and 'supporting primary care' at the heart of what we do, remains our key motivation. These are reflected in our priorities for the next twelve months.

We have been given the greenlight moving denosumab management out of the West Suffolk Hospital without transferring the work to practices. We expect there will be more examples of this as the west makes plans for its replacement hospital.

We have exciting events coming up from the GP Support Hub aimed at different stages in careers. This includes a Later Career even next month. Physician Associate and non-GP clinician plans are also in development.

Ruth Bushaway – Fed Medical Director



Fed's priorities for 2022/3

Each year your Board sets our priorities for the year. This year we are prioritising:

General

- Implement a plan to support Fed and members' staff post pandemic
- Review the Fed's strategy (this is now quite old)
- Improve our internal and external communications
- Agree a plan addressing the Fed's senior management resilience and succession
- Ensure we have sufficient reserves

Fed member support

- Launch the proposed Suffolk General Practice Development Unit
- Migrate GP+ to PCNs and launch new service models
- Work with PCNs on the provision of Enhanced Access (see GP+ update below)

Fed service provision

- Agree an investment schedule to update our core IT infrastructure.
- Launch small services e.g. exploring a Suffolk spirometry service with our CCGs
- Prepare for the launch of the Urgent Treatment Centre at Ipswich Hospital in 2023
- Plan to better leverage technology in our services
- Review how we contract with our key suppliers.

GP+ update

We have been working with PCNs to ensure GP+ reflects local need. As a result, there will be some additional bases starting with East Bergholt in 1 April. If you are interested in working at East Bergholt or in any of our bases please email our Rota Team GPOOH.rotateam@suffolkfed.org.uk

The new GP contract will change the way PCNs need to provide additional appointments outside core practice hours. We are working with PCNs on different options for providing this including how we ensure a range of general practice services are available.

Diabetes news

The Fed has managed the North East Essex Diabetes Service since 2013. In the latest data to March 2021, North East Essex is the top performer in England for the collection of 8 care process data and second for achieving the three priority treatment targets (HbA1c, BP and Chol). They also came top for Type 1 patients offered and attending structured education.

We are very proud of the service and believe there is plenty to learn from our experience. Therefore, we are commissioning University of Suffolk to conduct an academic evaluation of the service. We aim to publish this in a peer reviewed journal. At the same time, elements of the diabetes strategy are starting to show the test of time. For example, it involves little use of technology (unsurprising as the iPhone was only in existence three years before we launched).

Health Education England is funding a further year of the Advanced Management of Diabetes course. This is free for Suffolk practice attendees and is run jointly between the University of Essex and the Fed's North East Essex Diabetes Service. The modules combine Zoom and face to face shadow sessions. For more info please email sheila.smyth@nhs.net.

GP Support Hub news

The GP Support Hub is managed by the Fed and is an easy way for GPs to obtain confidential information, advice, support on careers, personal development and well-being in the Suffolk and North East Essex area. Contact via info@thegphub.com or 01473 350820.



Can you support six formers applying to medical school?

The time has come for those young people in Year 12 (and others) wishing to pursue medicine as a degree to start preparing. For this the students need mentoring, work experience and support. If you can help please email ruth.bushaway@suffolkfed.org.uk

GP Later Career Event – Thursday 7 April 6.30-8.30pm

Are you considering your options as you progress towards the later stage of your GP career? Thinking of changing your working arrangements? If so, we would love to welcome you to attend our 'Later Career Event' on Thursday 7th April at Fludyers Hotel, Felixstowe IP11 7LU. Confirm attendance via info@thegphub.org.uk.

Want to recruit an international newly qualified GP who needs sponsorship?

You need to gain the right to be a UK visa sponsoring practice. 1 in 3 newly qualified GPs this year will be international medical graduate (with increasing numbers in years to come). The Training Hub will support you with the process and will reimburse the costs. Get in touch directly info@thegphub.com.

Fed accounts 2020/1

After several years of generating a deficit, the Fed managed to make a surplus of £693,383 in 2020/1 on revenue of £25m (up 8% on the previous year). We are in a better financial position and our balance sheet, which is a snap shot of our financial health, looks strong.

Fed non-executive director elections

We are holding elections to replace two GP directors – one West and one Ipswich. To be eligible you need to be a Suffolk doctor (salaried, sessional or partner) and working in either the West or an Ipswich practice/area.

If you are interested, please self-nominate stating which area you are standing for to david.pannell@suffolkfed.org.uk. You can submit a short 150 word statement if you want. Nominations should be submitted by 2 May. If there is only one candidate they will be declared elected. For further information or an informal conversation, please either contact Ruth Bushaway (ruth.bushaway@suffolkfed.org.uk).

Is your senior partner changing?

If so please email David Pannell (David.pannell@suffolkfed.org.uk). The Fed is owned by the practices in Suffolk via senior partners. We need to tell NHSE and NHS Pensions of any changes.